

INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT First National Convention of the Guatemalan
Partido Socialista

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1. On 10 September 1951 the first National Convention of the Guatemalan Partido Socialista was held in the Palace Theater in Guatemala City. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Eduardo Silva, with Alejandro Silva Falla acting as First Secretary and Juan Jose Tejada Barrientos acting as Second Secretary.
2. As soon as the President of the Convention had declared the session open, Dr. Francisco Jose Silva Falla, a Congressional Deputy, directed a greeting to the 447 delegates from the departments of the Republic, stressing the necessity for founding this new political entity because of the disintegration of the other political parties, which at present are regarded as totally destroyed. He explained that, from 1944 to the present, nine political parties have sprung from the Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR), each one of which in turn has been divided into two or more political groups. While this was taking place among the revolutionary parties, Dr. Silva remarked only one reaction could be expected, and the latest and most dangerous weapon against the revolution of October had come into being, waving the banner of religion and anti-Communism, when "we all know in Guatemala that Communism is no danger, since the revolutionary parties are neither Communist nor anti-religious."
3. Silva continued his argument by saying that if the Government had permitted the organization in Guatemala of a Communist Party, it was out of respect for the new democracy in Guatemala, and because the new Guatemalan Constitution guarantees the free right of organization, of free thought, and freedom of political and social ideas. As an example of this freedom Dr. Silva stated that never before in Guatemala had there been such a constant ingress of foreign clergymen, who were given complete liberty of action within the country, without fear of molestation by the authorities or the organized political parties. This liberty of action was permitted, Silva said, even in the many instances he had observed in which these visitors had permitted themselves to make open criticisms of the democratic organizations of the country. From all this, Silva told the delegates, could be seen the urgent necessity to found a new political party, which could continue to be the bulwark of the October revolution.

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4. Dr. Alejandro Silva Palla spoke next, and read the No. 1 act of the Party, which told of the organization on the previous day, at Party headquarters, 5a. Avenida Norte de Jocotenango No. 12., of the meeting they were then attending.
5. Juan Jose Tejada Barrientos was the next speaker. He read the projected statutes and organization of the Party, which were approved point by point, with minor amendments. Source considered somewhat significant the discussion concerning not permitting, under any circumstances, the re-election of the various Party secretaries, or the members of the Political Commission, after a two-year term.
6. Augusto Charnaud Macdonald was elected Secretary General of the Partido Socialista. Upon being introduced by Dr. Silva, he made a brief address, which is to be transcribed and distributed to the various affiliates in the departments, and to the Guatemalan press.
7. In addition to the 447 department delegates present at the Police Theater meeting, a large audience, most of them former affiliates of the PRG, and from among them were elected the National Committee of the Party, its several secretaries, and its Political Commission, was in attendance. It was decided that in the event of the dissolution of the Partido Socialista all its furnishings and equipment should become the property of the Central Unica de los Trabajadores, and particularly of the Federacion Guatemalteca de Guatemaltecos.
8. The following persons were elected to the Executive Committee:

Secretary General	Augusto Charnaud Macdonald
Secretary of Organization	Juan Jose Tejada Barrientos
Secretary of Propaganda	Julio Cesar Antez Gutierrez
Secretary of Relations	Carlos Luis Letiza
Secretary of Workers' Affairs	Mario Morales Niebla
Secretary of Farm Affairs	Giloveo Torres
9. The following persons were elected to serve on the Political Commission:

Dr. Francisco Jose Silva Palla, Deputy in Congress	
Julio Cesar Antez Gutierrez	Manuel Velasco de la Cruz, Leader in Congressional Party
Carlos Luis Letiza	Juan Jose Tejada Barrientos
Oscar Barrios Castillo	Arturo Morales Niebla, Leader in PRG
Antonio Reyes Cordana	Professor Leonardo Castillo Flores
Jose Joaquin Garcia Jimeno	Manuel Chavarria Flores
Miguel Angel y Diaz	Julio Rivera Guerra
Dr. Alejandro Silva Palla	Miguel Angel Camacho
Guillermo Calles	Federico Molina Molina

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